



JOINT TASK FORCE CIVIL SUPPORT

CHAPLAIN'S RESILIENCY MESSAGE / 28 APRIL 2015

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Keeping Faith and Not Giving Up Builds Resilience

Ask anyone who has matured to the point of having a few years under their belt and they will confirm that "giving up too soon" is a short-sighted but detrimental mistake which happens much too often. Speaking from personal experience with hindsight, there have been times when I gave up too soon to my detriment. Many times I have persevered with solid determination, staying on course to witness positive and rewarding results.

Often, you and I will face the temptation to give up: give up on dreams, give up believing, give up hoping, give up trying, give up on others or give up on ourselves. When we feel like giving up, giving up is in fact the last thing we should do. We do not nor can we see the big picture of our lives from a true and accurate vantage point. Nor do we know the future and how things will unfold. We do have hindsight, as looking in the rear view mirror, and often get an encouraging glimpse and reminder of why we should not give up.

Tyler Perry chose not to give up though having experienced both poverty and abuse during his childhood and youth. Harrison Ford, successful and prolific actor recently involved but surviving a vintage plane crash, was told after his first film by movie executives "that he simply didn't have what it takes to be a star. Both of these individuals have and are experiencing huge success because they chose not to listen to the critics and to not give up.

Living with determination, purpose and perseverance in the face of situations and experiences that test our resolve "to not give up" takes faith in God rather than allowing our fears, phobias, short-sighted compulsions or unfortunate circumstances to consume us. It is encouraging to know that God is present and working through all of our successes and achievements, setbacks and failures, difficulties and challenges, disappointments but also encouraging and joyful experiences (even when we may not understand which is most of the time). Obviously, not everything that happens in life is good but God assures in Romans 8:28: "...that in all things God works for the good..."

Each of our lives are filled and overflowing with examples of how we have "persevered and did not give up" achieving greater fulfillment, growth and achievements. Following the values of our respective branch of service and unified mission, within our joint environment, instills determination and keeps us from giving up. We influence others and provide hope by our dutiful practice of these values.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." -Galatians 6:9

Be confident, courageous and determined!

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